

To: R8 GKM Leadership Team[R8_GKM_LeadershipTeam@epa.gov]
From: Hestmark, Martin
Sent: Thur 5/26/2016 10:08:05 PM
Subject: FW: Bonita Peak Site listing public information meeting in Farmington

FYI

From: Manzanilla, Enrique
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 2:05 PM
To: arbinmitchell@navajo-nsn.gov; Robert Joe <rjoe@navajo-nsn.gov>
Cc: donbenn@navajo-nsn.gov; ninaachester@navajo-nsn.gov; vlee@navajodot.org; hkarr@nndoj.org; Tenley, Clancy <Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov>; Chilingaryan, Sona <Chilingaryan.Sona@epa.gov>; BERMAN, TESSA <Berman.Tessa@epa.gov>; Minor, Dustin <Minor.Dustin@epa.gov>
Subject: Bonita Peak Site listing public information meeting in Farmington
Importance: High

Hello Arbin and Robert,

We have been working with our colleagues in other regions on a public meeting that would allow downstream communities to hear from EPA Region 8 about the proposed Bonita Peak Site that includes Gold King and 47 other mining related areas in Colorado. As you recall, EPA proposed this mining district last April for inclusion on the National Priorities List under Superfund.

EPA will be holding an informational meeting in Farmington on June 9 at 6:30 PM focused on the listing, and is extending the commenting period until June 13 to provide additional time for all stakeholders to submit comments. Included below is the notification we're sharing with the press about this meeting. We hope that Navajo Nation community members will be able to attend. We appreciate President Begaye's leadership and subsequent dialogue with EPA about listing mines in the Upper Animas Mining District.

I'm also including text below from a notification that went out today, in accordance with the Gold King Mine Stakeholders Alert and Notification Plan, about Cement Creek having some

discoloration because of spring runoff and precipitation events. The notification about the color of Cement Creek should also be emailed to you separately—please let me know if you don't receive it.

Thank you,

Enrique

PRESS CONTACT:

Laura Jenkins

Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov

303-312-6256

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2016

EPA Announces One Week Extension of Proposed Bonita Peak Mining District Site Public Comment Period and Informational Meeting in Farmington, NM

DENVER: To provide additional time for a broad cross-section of stakeholders to submit comments, EPA is announcing an extension of the public comment period for the proposed (San Juan County, CO) Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) listing to the National Priorities List (NPL). The public comment period will now close on June 13, 2016.

Additionally, EPA will hold an informational meeting on the proposed BPMD Superfund site in Farmington, New Mexico. There will be brief presentations on Superfund and the BPMD,

followed by a question and answer session focused on the BPMD proposal.

When: Thursday June 9, 2016, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Where: San Juan College

Henderson Fine Arts Building (Rooms 9008 – 9012)

4601 College Blvd.

Farmington, New Mexico 87402

Henderson Fine Arts Building is located near the front of the campus, when entering from College Blvd.

Topics Include:

1. General Overview of Superfund
2. Proposed BPMD Superfund Site in San Juan County, CO
3. Planned BPMD Superfund Activities in 2016

This is an informational session focused on the BPMD proposal, not a public hearing, so EPA will not be accepting public comments during the meeting.

To comment, please go to: <https://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OLEM-2016-0152> and use docket ID number: EPA-HQ-OLEM-2016-0152.

For information on the Gold King Mine release, please go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

For more information contact:

Cynthia Peterson

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

303-312-6879

Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov

Rebecca Thomas

EPA Remedial Project Manager

303-692-6552

Thomas.Rebecca@epa.gov

Or visit the EPA website at: www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak

Continued Spring Runoff Notification – 26 May16

Over the past several days, Cement Creek, north of Silverton, continued to periodically flow with an orange tinge caused by spring runoff and precipitation events. These periodic events are likely to continue for the next several weeks as spring runoff and precipitation continue.

As detailed in the Gold King Mine Stakeholders Alert and Notification Plan (Notification Plan),

EPA will notify stakeholders throughout the entire watershed in EPA Regions 8, 6, and 9 of any mine-related activities that could potentially impact the watershed. The Plan includes four levels, including, Notification Only and Alert Levels I – III.

“Notification Only” events are issued when an identified non mine-site related event affects Cement Creek or the Animas river and that event will not pose a physical or safety concern for downstream users, e.g., discoloration of Cement Creek unrelated to mine operations, a storm event that may cause an identifiable disturbance of sediment, or any other event that could cause limited discoloration of the Animas River.

“Alerts” are broken out based on an event’s physical or safety concerns. Examples of Alert I events include a limited or temporary release of treated or untreated mine wastewater that may be identifiable through operator knowledge or observation, or through direct measurements of turbidity or pH, that occur anywhere above the USGS Gauging Stations before Silverton. Alert II situations, for example, might include a failure of treatment systems or a storm event causing a shutdown of operations. Alert III event include all events that are, or will likely cause, large-scale environmental or physical safety effects.

To reiterate, this email represents a “Notification Only” event related to the continued orange discoloration of Cement Creek caused by spring runoff and precipitation events. This serves as notification that Cement Creek will periodically flow with an orange tinge over the next several weeks as spring runoff and precipitation continues.

Below are links to real-time water quality data in the Animas Watershed, including pH and turbidity.

Cement Creek:

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site_no=09358550&agency_cd=USGS

Animas River Below Silverton:

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site_no=09359020&agency_cd=USGS

Animas River at Durango:

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/inventory/?site_no=09361500&agency_cd=USGS